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Observations of Comets Encke, 1894, *and Swift*, 1895 *August* 20, *at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford.*

(*Communicated by E. J. Stone, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., Radcliffe Observer.*)

The following comet observations were made with the 10-inch Barclay Equatorial, using the ring micrometer, with power 100.

Date.	G.M.T.	Local Sidereal Time.	Observer.	Comet *minus* Star (corrected for Refraction only). R.A.	N.P.D.	No. of Comps.	Apparent R.A. of Comet.	Parallax in R.A. p.	Log $(p \times \Delta)$.	Apparent N.P.D. of Comet.	Parallax in N.P.D. q.	Log $(q \times \Delta)$.	Ref.
				Comet Encke, 1894.									
1895.	h m s	h m s		m s	′ ″		h m s	s		° ′ ″	″		
Jan. 18	5 47 32	1 34 0	W.	−0 21·83	+2 14·6	11	21 55 57·92	+0·43	9·4733	91 40 21·5	10·2	0·8447	(*a*)
21	6 10 36	2 8 58	W.	−1 49·77	+2 34·9	3	21 47 18·24	+0·51	9·5220	93 32 16·5	10·7	0·8471	(*b*)
23	5 58 8	2 4 21	R.	−2 0·30	−0 4·4	4	21 39 54·13	+0 52	9·5254	95 5 41·2	11·0	0·8497	(*c*)
25	5 52 41	2 6 47	R.	−3 48·23	+6 3·5	3	21 30 59·01	+0·55	9·5357	96 56 53·3	11·3	0·8508	(*d*)
				Comet Swift, 1895 *August* 20.									
Aug. 24	12 5 15	22 12 15	R.	−6 20·85	+0 59·1	6	0 36 28·91	−0·40	9·3346	84 8 52·7	11·9	0·8074	(*e*)
24	12 14 1	22 21 3	R.	−7 47·46	−0 39·9	5	0 36 29·97	−0·38	9·3108	84 8 53·8	11·8	0·8064	(*f*)
28	11 21 56	21 44 35	R.	+0 19·16	+5 55·1	7	0 45 7·92	−0·49	9·4154	83 56 16·7	12·2	0·8001	(*g*)
28	12 8 36	22 31 22	R.	−2 5·98	+2 25·1	7	0 45 11·72	−0·38	9·3064	83 56 21·4	12·0	0·8050	(*h*)
Sept. 18	11 2 16	22 47 39	R.	+1 53·11	+0 24·3	8	1 16 13·79	−0·82	9·3429	84 23 23·3	23·9	0·8090	(*i*)
20	11 29 21	23 22 42	R.	−0 15·69	+7 32·1	17	1 17 52·84	−0·65	9·2472	84 32 4·8	23·6	0 8073	(*j*)
25	10 48 10	23 1 7	R.	+0 15·01	+0 43·0	13	1 21 11·45	−0·56	9·3230	84 54 21·9	17·2	·8114	(*k*)

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1895.	h m s	h m s		m s	′ ″		h m s	s		° ′ ″	″		
27	12 32 0	0 53 7	R.	+2 29·55	−0 46·4	6	1 22 14·88	−0·20	8·8916	85 4 18·3	16·7	0·8074	(*l*)
Oct. 17	9 18 50	22 58 16	R.	−0 38·87	−4 58·6	6	1 26 39·97	−0·47	9·3438	86 21 42·2	14·0	0·8205	(*m*)
17	9 41 27	23 20 57	R.	−0 28·29	+4 57·9	6	1 26 40·44	−0·40	9·2805	86 21 54·2	13·9	0·8191	(*n*)
24	10 21 20	0 28 33	R.	−1 27·77	+6 35·9	8	1 27 23·39	−0·18	8·9678	86 33 8·2	12·7	0·8177	(*o*)

Observers' Remarks.

(*a*) The comet was faint when first observed owing to twilight. There is no tail, but a coma with brightening slightly following the centre of coma. The noises from bells, trains, and street are troublesome. (*b*) The comet is brighter than on January 18; a nucleus can be seen by gazing some time, but was of little use in observing: as before, the centre of the patch was taken. The objects were very low, and definition poor. Heavy clouds, with occasional breaks, drifted over during the observations of this evening. The above set was obtained in a break, and through trees. (*c*) Wind gusty this evening. The nucleus of comet is a diffused disc of the 9 or 10 magnitude, and follows the centre of the nebulosity. The image of the star is bright, but not well defined at times; objects low. (*d*) Difficult observations, some through trees. Comet, which is visible in strong twilight, is a diffused mass; centre observed. (*e* and *f*) The diameter of the coma surrounding the condensation is, approximately, 2′; it is an extremely faint, nebulous object. Observations difficult; guesswork at times. (*g* and *h*) There is no apparent change in the comet since August 24; the nebulous haze, with slight condensation, is extremely faint. Observations made with difficulty. (*i*) The faint nucleus is enveloped in a feeble coma which can be traced over a diameter of 3′. Sky unusually clear till midnight. (*j*) Comet extremely feeble, with a condensation. During the earlier comparisons to-night a star of about the same brightness as the nucleus (14 mag.) preceded, very closely, within the coma: this increased the difficulty of observation. (*k*) The star selected for comparison (mag. $9\frac{1}{2}$) is the brightest in the vicinity, but it is inconveniently close to the comet. There is no appreciable change in the form of the comet's coma and condensation; but the comet seems brighter than on any previous night. The sky is very clear above the ground fog. (*l*) The presence of a bright star in the field of view increased the difficulty of seeing the comet, which was very faint. (*m* and *n*) A star (mag. $10\frac{1}{2}$ or 11) followed the comet, say 3^s; the close proximity of this star made the observation very difficult, the comet being sometimes lost in the glare of the star. (*o*) The comet is a small faint haze without any perceptible nucleus; the centre observed as nearly as possible. Very difficult observations. Sky very clear.

Observers: W., Mr. W. Wickham; R., Mr. W. H. Robinson.

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Assumed Places of Comparison Stars.

Ref.	Mean R.A.	Reduction to Apparent R.A.	Mean N.P.D.	Reduction to Apparent N.P.D.	Authority.
	h m s	s	° ′ ″	″	
(*a*)	21 56 20·55	−0·80	91 38 0·0	+ 6·9	Gould 30140.
(*b*)	21 49 8·81	−0·80	93 29 33·8	+ 7·7	Gould 29971.
(*c*)	21 41 55·23	−0·80	95 5 37·3	+ 8·3	Radcliffe, 1890, 5875.
(*d*)	21 34 48·03	−0·79	96 50 41·0	+ 8·8	Mean of Lamont 29127 and Schjellerup 8788.
(*e*)	0 42 46·50	+3·26	84 8 16·1	−22·5	Radcliffe transit-circle observations, 1895.
(*f*)	0 44 14·17	+3·26	84 9 56·3	−22·5	Radcliffe transit-circle observations, 1895.
(*g*)	0 44 45·42	+3·34	83 50 44·7	−23·1	Radcliffe transit-circle observations, 1895.
(*h*)	0 47 14·37	+3·33	83 54 19·4	−23·1	Radcliffe transit-circle observations, 1895.
(*i*)	1 14 17·03	+3·65	84 23 24·8	−25·9	Radcliffe transit-circle observations, 1895.
(*j*)	1 18 4·80	+3·73	84 24 58·8	−26·1	Radcliffe transit-circle observation, 1895.
(*k*)	1 20 52·69	+3·75	84 54 5·4	−26·5	Radcliffe transit-circle observations, 1895.
(*l*)	1 19 41·55	+3·78	85 5 31·3	−26·6	Albany, A.G., 392.
(*m*)	1 27 14·86	+3·98	86 27 8·1	−27·3	Albany, A.G., 424.
(*n*)	1 27 4·75	+3·98	86 17 23·6	−27·3	Albany, A.G., 423.
(*o*)	1 28 47·13	+4·03	86 26 59·6	−27·3	Albany, A.G., 440.

In the computation of the parallaxes the adopted value of the Sun's mean horizontal parallax is 8″·85 ; and the geocentric distances, Δ, are taken, for (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*) from the *Bulletin de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de St.-Pétersbourg*, 1894 Novembre ; for (*e*), (*f*), (*g*), (*h*) from No. 3,308, for (*i*), (*j*) from No. 3,309, and for (*k*), (*l*), (*m*), (*n*), (*o*) from No. 3,310 of the *Astronomische Nachrichten*. The values of Δ given in these ephemerides for Comet Swift are discordant.

Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford : 1895 *December* 12.

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